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CLAIMS:

A solid multi-piece golf ball comprising a solid core, a mantle of at least one layer enclosing the solid core, and a cover of at least one layer enclosing the mantle, wherein

the mantle and the solid core have a compression ratio, defined as (compression of mantle)/(compression of solid core), of at least 8.98, and

the solid core has a surface and a center with a difference in JIS-C hardness therebetween, defined as (surface hardness - center hardness), of at least 5.

- 2. The golf ball of claim 1, wherein the mantle is made of a material composed primarily of a thermoplastic resin.
- 3. The golf ball of claim 1, wherein the mantle has a thickness of up to 1.5 mm.
- 4. The golf ball of claim 1, wherein the cover is made of a material composed primarily of a thermoplastic resin having a Shore D hardness of 60 to 68.
  - 5. The golf ball of claim 1, wherein the solid core has a compression of 3.2 to 4.5 mm.
  - 6. The golf ball of claim 1, wherein the compression ratio between the mantle and the solid core is at least 1.00.
- 7. The golf ball of claim 1, wherein the JIS-C hardness
  30 difference between the surface and the center of the solid
  core is at least 8.

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